



ON POINT

August 2010

I am very happy to report that there is now a true drive-by mailbox in Point Richmond. Early this month a mailbox with a funnel was installed on the island at the bus turnaround at Tewksbury and Castro.

Victor Morales, Margaret Morkowski, Artrese Morrison and Marcus Sandoval from our Drive-by Mailbox Committee are to be thanked many times over. They showed great diligence in identifying a workable location, and then the necessary persistence to bring Postmaster Martinez and City Traffic Engineer Tam together to complete the project. Good work.

I encourage you all to use the new mailbox. Ask your neighbors to use it too. Spread the word. The box must prove itself if it is to remain in place. I've started taking the last exit when returning to town, and using the Tewksbury on ramp when leaving, so I can drop mail in the box.

The postal service is fighting to remain solvent. As you know, our local Post Office was on the chopping block last year. If it closes, it will be greatly missed. Don't just enjoy our new drive-by mailbox. Spend money at the Point Richmond Post Office. If you have a business that is not in town, try to buy stamps, and mail your packages from our local P.O.. Adequate and consistent revenue will help keep it open.

Budgets are being strained everywhere—not least of which school budgets. Music, art, drama, dance, shop, and other “expendable” programs are being cut from school curricula. These are programs that were taken for granted when I went to school.

In an effort to fund a music program at the Washington School, there will be a Picnic in the Point from noon to 6 pm on Saturday, August 28 in the Judge G. Carroll Park. This is the park across from Mechanics Bank on Garrard.

The event is open to everyone, and is free. However, \$20 buys a ticket for food, beverages and games—which is a \$30 value. All proceeds go to the school. Tickets can be purchased at the event, or in advance at the Up and Under at 2 West Richmond Ave. Come and have a good time with your neighbors and contribute to a worthy cause.

Our upcoming meeting should be interesting. It's back-to-school time. Dr. Harter, the Superintendent for the West Contra Costa School District, will give us an overview of the challenges facing the district, its teachers and the students that it serves. Bring your questions.

We will also hear from Kevin Pryne, the owner of 213 Tewksbury, and Manoj Tripathi, a franchisee who hopes to open a SUBWAY sandwich shop at that location.

I hope to see you at the meeting.

Peter Minkwitz, *President*
POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



AGENDA

POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Wednesday, August 25, 2010
Point Richmond Community Center

- 7:30 pm **Call to Order**
- 7:30 **Approval of Minutes from July 28, 2010**
President's Report by Peter Minkwitz (510) 232-3663 5 minutes
- 7:35 **Police Report** 10 minutes
Richmond PD Officer David Longacre
Voicemail: (510) 621-1212 x 7105 or dlongacre@richmondpd.net
- 7:45 **Report on Membership** Sue Rosenof (510) 599-1197 2 minutes
- 7:47 **Treasurer's Report** Art Mowry (510) 215-0501 2 minutes
- 7:49 **Committee Reports and Announcements from non-profit groups**
2 minutes each Up to 13 minutes
Point Richmond Business Association, Margaret Morkowski (510) 234-4219
Women's Westside Improvement Association, Margaret Morkowski
Knit and Such, Altha Humphrey (510) 232-2934
Arts of Point Richmond, Altha Humphrey (510) 234-3822
Safety Committee, Tom Brichta (415) 686-1522
- 8:00 **Dr. Bruce Harter, Superintendent, West Contra Costa Unified School District**—his annual report on the state of the school district
- 8:40 **Report from Land Use/Design Review Committee** Rod Satre
Items to be considered at the Committee's September 29, 2010 meeting must be submitted to Rod Satre, Committee Chair, by September 15, 2010.
Contact Rod at (510) 232-5059 or rdsatre@live.com
- 1) **Front deck modification** 9 Crest, Sharon Halpern, owner
 - 2) **Sidewalk dining enclosure at the Up and Under** 2 West Richmond, Nathan Trivers, applicant
 - 3) **Proposed SUBWAY franchise** 213-217 Tewksbury, Kevin Pryne, landlord
- Old Business:** Chain link fence being installed by the City
- New Business**
- Public Forum:** Please sign up. As many as 5 speakers—2 minutes each
Issues brought to the attention of the Council in the Public Forum cannot result in Council action at this meeting. Instead, the issue should be presented to Council President Peter Minkwitz for consideration by the PRNC Board as an agenda item at a future meeting. Must be submitted to Peter Minkwitz (510) 465-2527 (B), 510-232-3663 (H) by September 15, 2010 peter@sanfranciscomarinesurveyors.com or peter180@comcast.net
- Adjourn**

IMPORTANT DATES

- **August 28 Saturday** **PICNIC IN THE POINT, a benefit for the Washington School music program
Noon to 6 pm in the Park across from Mechanics Bank**
- **September 29 Wednesday** **Next Regular meeting of the PRNC
7:30 pm, Point Richmond Community Center, 139 Washington**
- **September 15 Tuesday** **Last day to submit proposed projects to the Land Use/Design Review Committee**
- **September 7 Tuesday** **Next meeting of the PRNC Board of Directors
Call Peter Minkwitz for the time and place (510) 232-3663**
- **September 3 Friday** **Meet-with-the-Mayor
5:30 – 6:30pm Whittlesey Room, 325 Civic Center Plaza**
- **September 8 Wednesday** **Next meeting of the Point Richmond Business Association
12:00 noon, Banquet Room, Hotel Mac**
- **September 10 Friday** **Point Richmond Summer Music Festival
5:30 pm Je Conte and Kickin' the Mule**
- **Wednesdays** **Point Richmond Farmers Market
4 to 8 pm**
- **September 19** **Art in the Park
11 to 6 pm in the Mechanic Bank park**

PLEASE SEND US YOUR DUES FOR 2010/2011

THE POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (PRNC)

provides a forum where issues of concern to the community can be discussed and acted upon. Monthly meetings keep you and your neighbors informed on issues that are important to Point Richmond and affect our lives. See last page of newsletter for details and membership form.

Important numbers

Richmond Police Dept.
(510) 233-1214,
then dial "0"

Graffiti Hotline
(510) 965-4905

Pothole Repair
(510) 231-3011

Minutes
POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
July 28, 2010
Point Richmond Community Center

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order late, as we had no place to meet, initially. We were locked out of the Community Center and made a last minute move to the Symphonie Restaurant. The exact time of the start of the meeting was not noted in all of the confusion. However, President, Peter Minkwitz (510) 232-3663, called it to order.

Approval of Minutes from June 30, 2010: The minutes were moved, seconded and approved. Some residents are still not receiving them prior to the meeting. Sue is working diligently on this matter.

President's Report by Peter Minkwitz (510) 232-3663 Peter gave a brief overview of the speakers. The police, not public works, now handle graffiti. (510) 065-4905. National Night Out is scheduled for Tuesday, August 3; however, this PRNC meeting is our education about crime and the parolees in our community who are, in some cases residents. Tom Butt has proposed that the Purple Collard Green be considered for the plant to represent the City of Richmond. Our simple sample was not too impressive, but its heritage is significant. It has an African background, brought to the area by shipyard workers from the south. A collard cook-off was suggested.

Police Report: Richmond PD Officer David Longacre: (510) 621-1212 x 7105 or dlongacre@richmondcpd.net Crime stats show 8 crimes this past month. The statistics did not include a reported burglary in Brickyard Landing, or an assault by an individual, in his garden, whose assailant did not follow the rules of his restraining order. The statistics are based on those crimes for which a report is filed. It was seen as a "soft" number, not a "call for service" number. Officer Longacre indicated that if people are insistent that an officer come out to the scene, they will, however, a mail out report is often suggested with less serious crimes or when there is no suspect available, i.e. breaking a window in a car and stealing the contents without a suspect.

Officer Longacre was asked to stay for the rest of the meeting as the conversation related to parolees as well as how the North Richmond Neighborhood House and the Richmond PD Crime Prevention Coordinator are working together to reduce crime.

Report on Membership Sue Rosenof (510) 599-1197. We have 385 members with 107 having paid their dues. The last mailings were stamped "Dues Expired" on a green stamp if your dues had expired.

Treasurer's Report Art Mowry (510) 215-0501 Bishop Alley Path Fund: \$711.06 (We are custodians of this money). Ferry Point Fund: \$1989.58 (Custodians). These funds are for the painting of the tunnel. Wig Wag Fund: \$2970.94. No current expenses. \$195 dues. General fund: \$4539.20. Total: \$10,210.78

Committee Reports and Announcements from non-profit groups:

Point Richmond Business Association, President, Margaret Morkowski (510) 234-4219. The next meeting is August 11, at 12 noon at the Hotel Mac. August 13 is Music in Pt. Richmond from 5:30-8:00. August 14 is the grand opening of The Plunge. It opens at 11:00 a.m. and there will be free swimming in three sessions: 1:00, 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. The typical cost will be \$5.00 per session with monthly as well as quarterly fee schedules available. There will be a Business Association picnic on August 28 at Washington Park where you may buy food, play games, and listen to music. The benefits from the sales will go to the PTA at Washington School for the Music

Program. School starts August 24, 2010.

Women's Westside Improvement Association, Margaret Morkowski (510) 234-4219 Margaret reminded us that meetings resume in September.

Knit and Such, Altha Humphrey (510) 232-2934 Altha's husband passed away on Friday, July 23. Our thoughts are with Altha during this time of sadness and loss. Margaret spoke for Altha regarding the scheduled meetings, which are the first Wednesday of each month from 1:45-3:45 p.m. The next meeting will be 8/4/10.

Arts of Point Richmond, Altha Humphrey (510) 232-2934. The next meeting is Wednesday August 18 from 7-9 at the Community Center. Art is displayed at the Post Office and the Brazilian Steak House.

Safety Committee, Tom Brichta (415) 686-1522 No report.

TRAC, Bruce Brubaker reported that the East Bay Regional Parks gave \$1million for capital improvement to Miller Knox Park. There will be better connections to the water and work where the tracks and fence are.

North Richmond Neighborhood House-19 Cottage, Richard Wilson, affiliated with the house since 2002, reported that this establishment was originally Old Saint James Hotel. In 2008, it became The Neighborhood House, operating as a residential hotel with 23 current residents and a capacity for 31. Residents are screened to assure "safety, comfort and a home atmosphere. Male and female residents share 5 community bathrooms, 1 community kitchen with 1 community stove. Each resident pays rent, and if there is any indication and proof of public nuisance, a resident is automatically dismissed. Visitor hours end at 10 p.m. A log is kept regarding visits and a security guard is on graveyard duty from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Security gates have been installed. Officer Longacre was impressed with the changes made at the house.

Barbara Becknel, Executive Director of the Neighborhood House, Richard Wilson, Eric Felder and Irwin Reeves all spoke of the changes and the wide range of multi agency services provided at the house. The House has undergone interior restoration, receiving furnishing from Courtyard Marriott. Exterior changes have not been achieved, much to Barbara's regret as funds have been re routed. However, volunteers are assisting with the renovations as much as possible. This facility does transition parolees from prison, but this is not the "only thing, nor the primary thing we do" as per Barbara and Irwin who is President of the Board of Directors for the Neighborhood House. PR residents engaged in good exchange & conversation.

Public Safety and Parolee Monitoring in Richmond -- Michelle Milam The attendees were shocked by the number of parolees (50-100) who "come out per week" as referenced in Michelle Milam's statistics. She stated that without intervention, "70% go back into the system through a revolving door". During the first 6 months, it is important to intervene with services. The Police Department is working as a team for parolee monitoring. "Enforcement and access to services (prevention) go hand in hand." Questions regarding victim restitution were raised. Richmond is trying to put together a central system to use the allocated resources in a smarter way. Michele distributed National Night Out Fliers. When asked if these nights make a difference in deterring crime, neighborhood & community awareness were seen as a healthy goal.

Report from Land Use/Design Review Committee. Rod Satre *Items to be considered at the Committee's July 28, 2010 meeting must be submitted to Rod Satre, Committee Chair, by August 14, 2010. Contact Rod at 510-232-5059 or rsatre@live.com.* 224 Buena Vista: Approved without conditions. 9 Crest: Approved with conditions. This address will return next month for consideration. Pathway between 1 Crest and 5 Crest: Handled between owners with neighbors' help.

Public Forum: Please sign up. As many as 5 speakers- 2 minutes each. *Issues brought to the attention of the Council in the Public Forum cannot result in Council action at this meeting. Instead, the issue should be presented to Council President Peter Minkwitz for consideration by the PRNC Board as an agenda item at a future meeting, it must be submitted by August 10, 2010 to Peter Minkwitz (510) 465-2527 (B) 510-232-3663 (H) or peter@sanfranciscomarinesurveyors.com or peter180@comcast.net*

Richard Fabree: looking for a shared house rental or a room until he can find a permanent place here at the Point. George Coles: reminding residents about Red Oak Victory Ship Pancake breakfast from 9-12 on the 2nd Sunday of the month. George is now a docent on the Red Oak Victory Ship as well as at the Richmond Museum. Kate Gebhart, the maker of Bark Stix dog biscuits, is intending to help create a dog park in an empty triangular lot with parking across the street from Bark Stix at Garrard and the short dead-end portion of Canal. This would be a dog park for Point Richmond residents. It is already fenced. Kate is looking for someone with contracting experience to help and be on the Board of Directors. A fence is needed to separate small and large dogs, and the parking area needs to be improved. Call for info/fliers @ 235-2430.

Mailbox Report: Margaret and Peter are working with Postmaster Martinez and Mr. Tam and e-mails were exchanged. Both members of the PRNC are working diligently to actualize these mailboxes.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Louise Fender, Secretary (510) 260-0309

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, August 25, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

WE URGE YOU TO BECOME A MEMBER!

The dues help cover our administrative expenses and are minimal. Rates are \$10 for individuals and \$15 for a household. New and renewed membership covers the period May 1, 2010 to April 30, 2011. Lifetime memberships are available for \$500.

POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

New **Membership Application** **Renewal**
May 1, 2010 to April 30, 2011

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone _____ e-mail _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Bring dues to the next meeting or mail your check to PRNC (not to the return address on this mailing) to:

PRNC
P.O. Box 70386
Point Richmond, CA 94807

Do you want to receive the Newsletter by mail ? Yes No
Do you want to receive the Newsletter by e-mail ? Yes No